REMARKS

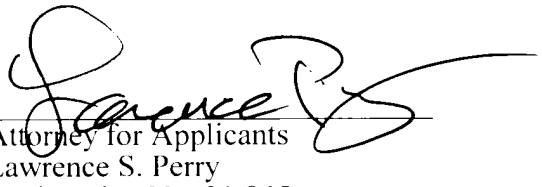
Claims 6-9, 21 and 22 have been amended simply in order for better dependency. No new matter has been added.

Entry hereof is earnestly solicited.

Claims 4-22 remain presented for continued prosecution.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicants
Lawrence S. Perry
Registration No. 31,865

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

6. (Amended) The process according to any one of claims 4, 5, 17 and 19, wherein said microogranism having N-acetylneuraminic acid aldolase activity is a microorganism belonging to the genus Escherichia or Corynebacterium.

7. (Amended) The process according to any one of claims 4, 5, 18 and 20, wherein said microorganism having N-acetylneuraminic acid synthetase activity is a microorganism belonging to a genus selected from the group consisting of Escherichia, Neisseria and Streptococcus.

8. (Amended) The process according to any one of claims 4, 5, 17 and 19, wherein said microorganism capable of producing pyruvic acid is a microorganism belonging to a genus selected from the group consisting of Escherichia, Corynebacterium and Saccharomyces.

9. (Amended) The process according to any one of claims 4, 5, 18 and 20, wherein said microorganism capable of producing phosphoenolpyruvic acid is a microorganism belonging to a genus selected from the group consisting of Escherichia, Corynebacterium and Saccharomyces.

21. (Amended) The process according to claim 17 or 19, wherein said culture of a microorganism carrying DNA encoding N-acetylglucosamine 2-epimerase activity or treated matter thereof is copresent with said cultures of a microogranism having N-acetylneuraminic acid aldolase activity and said culture of microorganism capable of producing pyruvic acid or treated matter thereof.

22. (Amended) The process according to claim [17] 18 or 20, wherein said culture of a microorganism carrying DNA encoding N-acetylglucosamine 2-epimerase activity or treated matter thereof is copresent with said cultures of a microogranism having N-acetylneuraminic acid synthetase activity and said culture of microorganism capable of producing phosphoenolpyruvic acid or treated matter thereof.

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